



Vesicular Stomatitis

Guidance for Shows, Fairs, and Equine Events

Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) is a viral disease that usually affects equines and cattle, but can also affect sheep, goats, pigs, llamas, alpacas, and camels. This disease is common in South and Central America, but occasional outbreaks are seen in North America. In May 2023, an outbreak of the New Jersey strain of VS began in California. Cases have also been diagnosed in Texas and Nevada.

The disease is spread by biting insects, direct contact between animals, and the use of shared equipment that is contaminated with saliva or nasal discharge. The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) recommends that livestock and horse event organizers consider taking the measures below to minimize the risk of transmission of vesicular stomatitis (VS).

Entry Control Measures

Health Certificates

Participants should, when possible, arrive at the event with a health certificate that was issued within 2-5 days of departure for the event. The health certificate is not a requirement for in-state animals, but can help ensure that livestock and horses arrive at the event free of clinical signs of VS. The health certificate should include the following statement from the veterinarian: "I have examined the animal(s) represented on this certificate and have found no clinical signs of vesicular stomatitis."

Out of State Participants

Out-of-state participants should check with their state animal health officials prior to leaving for the event to determine the requirements for returning to their state after the event.

Examination of All Incoming Animals:

All susceptible species of animals should receive an examination for VS lesions upon arrival at the event by a veterinarian or fair/show staff under a veterinarian's oversight. Animals should be inspected for blisters, sores, or scabbing around the mouth, nostrils, hooves, teats, and ears. Gloves should be worn and changed between animals or groups of animals. If any animals are suspected of having

VS, the animals should not be permitted to enter the event and must be reported to UDAF at (801) 982-2235.

Animals from Known VS Counties

Animals from known VS-affected counties should be housed in a separate area from other animals, if possible. These animals should be observed daily for signs of disease.

On-Site Control Measures

Shared Equipment

Discourage the use of shared feed bins, water troughs, equipment, and tack between participants. Common areas and equipment should be disinfected regularly.

Insect Control

Manure management, elimination of fly breeding areas, removal of standing water, and appropriate insecticide use for premises help to reduce the number of flies in corrals and barns. Fly wipes, sprays, foggers, and other repellents for use on animals and facilities should be applied according to label directions.

Regular Observation

All susceptible animals should be looked at regularly for signs of VS during the event. Excessive salivation (slobbering) is often the first sign of disease. Blisters, sores, and scabbing may form on the hairless areas of the body, especially around the mouth or on the tongue, gums, lips, nostrils, ears, sheath, prepuce, teats/udder, or coronary band. Suspect cases should be isolated away from other animals and reported to UDAF at (801) 982-2235.

End of the Event

Collect destination and contact information for all animals leaving the fair or show, in the event VS is diagnosed in an animal that participated in the show.

***For more information,
visit ag.utah.gov.***